

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126854 POSS DUPE  
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 L-03 OES-07 HEW-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
EPA-04 COME-00 ISO-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:T.R.MARTIN:CLC  
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OES/ENP/EN:HERBERT SPIELMAN  
L/ARA:FRANKLIN K. WILLIS  
ARA/MEX:GEORGE FALK

-----021354Z 035253 /53

R 021126Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 126854

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: TIJUANA SANITATION PROBLEM

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO FOREIGN OFFICE AS  
SOON AS PRACTICABLE FIRST PERSON NOTE ALONG THE LINES  
SUGGESTED BELOW. US COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN ADDRESSED  
SIMILAR MESSAGE TO MEXICAN COMMISSIONER MAY 17.

2. MY GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO BRING TO YOUR  
ATTENTION AN URGENT SANITATION PROBLEM THAT THREATENS  
HEALTH AND PUBLIC WELFARE ON THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER AT  
TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, AND SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. I  
ENCLOSE A MEMORANDUM WHICH DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE  
PRESENT THREAT, SUGGESTS MEANS OF SOLUTION, AND OUTLINES  
A POSSIBLE PROGRAM TO AVERT RECURRENCE OF SUCH A PROBLEM  
IN THE FUTURE.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE MEMORANDUM, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR TIJUANA  
HAVE NOT KEPT ESSENTIAL PUMPS IN REPAIR, AND THEREFORE  
HAVE OVERLOADED AN EMERGENCY CONNECTION WITH THE SAN DIEGO  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM. THE SAN DIEGO SYSTEM IS IN TURN  
OVERLOADED AND CANNOT ADEQUATELY PERFORM THE SERVICE FOR  
WHICH IT WAS DESIGNED. UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

TAKES IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES, RAW SEWAGE WILL FLOW ON THE SURFACE IN TIJUANA AND CROSS ON THE SURFACE INTO THE UNITED STATES. CERTAINLY NEITHER OF OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD WANT TO PERMIT SUCH AN EVENT TO OCCUR.

4. YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT IN ARTICLE 3 OF THE 1944 WATER TREATY OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROMISED TO GIVE PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION TO BORDER SANITATION PROBLEMS. I HOPE YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL BE ABLE TO INFORM ME SHORTLY, SO THAT I CAN REASSURE THE AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, OF THE MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN OPPORTUNELY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO PREVENT A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD AND NUISANCE FROM DEVELOPING ON THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER IN THE VICINITY OF TIJUANA.

5. PROPOSED MEMORANDUM WAS SENT AIRMATL TO HOWARD MAY 27. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WASTE DISPOSAL, WATER POLLUTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE126854  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** T.R.MARTIN:CLC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770196-0887  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** dc014186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2302667  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TIJUANA SANITATION PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** PBOR, SENV, MX, US  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dc014186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009